

DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

OFFICIAL PAPER OF BRYAN COUNTY

VOLUME XIX.

DURANT, OKLAHOMA, FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1915.

NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

Trial of Herbert Yager, Fireman, Commenced Wednesday Night and Will Last Two or Three Sessions. Chas. Huber and George Roberts Cases Are to Follow.

For the first time in the history of this city, the City Council sat as a court of impeachment Wednesday night, and heard testimony calculated to show that Herbert Yager, a member of the fire department, is incompetent for the place, and that he behaved himself in ways unbecoming an employee of the city of Durant. Many witnesses for the prosecution were examined, and at late hour Wednesday night the case was continued until Thursday, and it is believed will occupy the Council's attention for three nights at least. Mr. Yager is represented by Attorneys Hayes and McIntosh, and J. V. Connell.

Just as soon as the Yager trial is concluded, the trial of Fire Chief Charlie Huber, who is charged with several varieties of gross neglect of duty and other things, will be held. Mr. Huber is represented by Attorneys Hatchett and Ferguson, and J. V. Connell. Following the Huber trial will come that of Street Commissioner George Roberts, who is also charged with a great many things that street commissioners should not do. He is represented by Attorneys Utterback and MacDonald.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB WORK

Here is an interesting excerpt from a report of Mrs. Jennie Fash, the lady county agent, relative to the work of the clubs: "Over 200 boys and girls have enrolled in the various lines of club work in Bryan County. A large majority are staying with the work and will have exhibits for the local and State fairs. Girls are marketing tomatoes at 10 cents a pound. We have twenty-one canning outfits in the county and expect to have several thousand cans of tomatoes and peaches to sell. We are testing the Spanish pimento pepper, and, if grown here successfully, will be a valuable crop. Fifty-three girls have made all bread lessons sent out up to this time. The poultry club will have good chickens and market eggs to exhibit at the county fair. Forty-two women enrolled in home demonstration work; they are marketing infertile eggs, raising more and better chickens and fattening all chickens sold. They are making cheese for home use, have raised several thousand pounds of early cabbage, are making fireless cookers and using them. One class is taking the better-bread lessons and is delighted with the work and results."

SPEAKER EGGED AT CADDO

Several nights ago, while a Socialist speaker was elucidating his creed to a good sized crowd at Caddo, the lights in the building were suddenly turned out and the speaker and crowd treated to a volley of ripe eggs. Later on in the evening, as the speaker and a friend were going to a hotel, the same tactics were followed. Fortunately for them, however, the aim of their assailants was poor. This egging business is bad tactics, to say the least. Nothing is gained, and much is lost. The News has no use for the teachings and doctrines of Socialism, which, without a doubt, are unsound economically and otherwise; but, notwithstanding this, we cannot condone the egging business, which, as the Caddo Herald expresses it, gives the persons egged an opportunity to pose as martyrs.

POOL HALL OWNERS AP-

PLY FOR NEW LICENSES

Two pool halls of Durant have petitioned County Judge Rappolee for license to operate pool halls in this city, being J. O. Brizidine, proprietor of the Third Avenue pool hall, and J. O. Campbell, owner of the Atwood pool hall. It is now understood that the others have closed up. The petition have been filed and have been posted, and a hearing will be granted on July 12 to determine as to Campbell, and on the 14th as to Brizidine.

The new law requires persons desiring to operate a pool or billiard hall to file application with the County Judge for a license. The applicant must prove his good moral character and show by his past reputation that he intends to obey the laws, particularly the prohibition laws. The applicant must also swear he

has never convicted of violating the prohibition laws, or the anti-gaming laws; that he never paid a liquor tax to the United States government, and that no such tax is held by any person occupying, in part, or adjoining that part of the building in which the proposed pool or billiard hall is to be operated.

TO BE NO MACHINE RULE IN OKLAHOMA

Pursuant to the declared purpose of Governor Williams that there shall be no machine rule in the political affairs of the State, so far as he can prevent, instructions along which line were given by him in appointing the members of the State Election Board, these members are passing the order down the line. A letter by Harry B. Beeler, Republican member of the State Election Board to the chairman of the Republican County Central Committee makes declaration of policies rubric of the rule laid down by the Governor. Letters of a similar tenor are being sent out by A. L. Walker, Democratic member, to the Democratic County Chairmen. Mr. Beeler says in his letter referred to in the foregoing:

"As you probably know, I have lately been appointed as the Republican member of the State Election Board, and it is my earnest desire to render to the State efficient service by a strict enforcement of all laws guaranteeing fair elections, and to aid our party in every legitimate way by securing to it representation on the county and precinct boards. To this end I stand for the principle that the law makes it mandatory that the Republican voters, either through a convention or through the county organization, shall concur by a majority vote in the selection of the Republican member of the county board. When it is inconvenient or impossible to bring the organization together in a meeting called for that purpose, an endorsement signed by a majority of the members of the county central committee will be considered as the equivalent of such meeting and organization action, and the man so named will receive my endorsement and get the appointment."

"You will understand that I am the minority member of the State Board, and in order to receive the support of the Democratic members of the Board it is necessary that I shall stand squarely behind the law and make that the basis of all my contentions. On no other ground could I successfully demand fair treatment or really deserve to obtain it."

"My appointment was not a factional one and was not sought by me, neither will it be used to further any personal or factional ends. The people of Oklahoma of all parties are too well informed to stand for any chicanery or tricks of political legerdemain in the handling of the election machinery of the State, and our party has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a strict adherence to the spirit and purpose of the law."

"I feel satisfied that the present Democratic administration of affairs in Oklahoma is anxious and willing to uphold and enforce the election laws and that if we exercise the diligence and rational vigilance we should in looking after the details of our own party affairs our rights will be safe and respected."

"I want your cooperation and support and that of all the other members of our party, and I promise you mine in return, and while I am anxious to become the efficient servant of all, I shall steadfastly refuse to become the fool or henchman of any one."

GERMAN NOTE UNACCEPTABLE

Through Ambassador Gerard a draft to the German reply to the latest American note of protest was received here this week, and is generally unsatisfactory, according to the statement issued from the White House Wednesday. Informal discussions on the subject revealed the fact that the American protest is not acceptable to Germany, and there is every reason to believe that the matter of President Wilson's plea for humanity is everything but settled.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dr. Otto Henry Rhode of Brooklyn, in his paper on "Canteens," read at the convention of the Medico-Pharmaceutical League, said that beers and light wines are active aids to the system, as well as food and drink, and that the women and children of the United States are injuring their health by the inordinate use of soft drinks procured at soda fountains.

CADDO IN DIRE NEED OF WATER

Mayor Yarbrough Orders Service Reinstated Until Caddo Can Arrange For Supply.—Town Was Without Fire Protection and Water For Home Use.

Soon after the water service from Durant's pumping station to Caddo was discontinued, the people of Caddo realized that the lack of water put them in a tight place. They had no fire protection whatever, not half enough water for home use, and the light plant and other industries there were compelled to close down for lack of water. The stress under which the cutting off of the water placed Caddo was occasioned by the fact that during the life of the contract, Caddo depended entirely upon Durant for water, and had done away with all other provisions for a supply. They will soon have an electric there to attempt to vote waterworks bonds, but even if it carries, it will be several months before the service is secured.

A committee of gentlemen came to Durant from Caddo Wednesday, what a plight they were in and after hearing the matter, the Mayor ordered that the service to Caddo be reinstated immediately, and left on until Caddo could arrange for its own waterworks.

COUNCIL VOTES POOL HALLS OUT

Operators of Such Places Are Given Until October 31st to Wind Up Their Affairs and Move Their Businesses From the City.

Pool halls in Durant are doomed—the City Council has so decreed—and it must be so, for the ordinance passed by that body Tuesday night of this week makes it unlawful for any person to operate a pool or billiard hall in the city of Durant at any time or under any conditions. The ordinance was passed with the emergency clause attached, which makes it in full force and effect immediately after being passed and published, but the Council agreed not to put it into effect until October 31st, so as to give the operators of such institutions in the city an opportunity to close up their affairs and move to other cities.

The passing of the ordinance is undoubtedly due to the work of several of the local ministers and church workers among them. Rev. J. N. Edwards, Rev. E. Thurston Campbell, Attorney V. B. Hayes, and Attorney C. C. Hatchett, and others, who have on several occasions appeared before the Council with requests that pool halls be removed from the city, were prominent in the campaign.

The News is informed that immed-

ately after the passing of the ordinance, all the pool halls in the city with the exception of two, closed their doors, and these, it is said, will close in a very short time.

NORMAN INSANE ASYLUM

TRANSFERRED TO STATE

The transfer of the insane asylum at Norman to the State of Oklahoma has been completed according to the terms of the resolution adopted by the Fifth Legislature, in pursuance of a contract with the sanitarium company made prior thereto. The deal includes several small tracts of land in Norman and the sanitarium building thereon, together with the equipment of the institution. The cost to the State was \$100,000.

The State has been using the facilities of this asylum for many years, the two asylums owned by the State having been at all times inadequate to the needs of the situation. The motive of the Legislature in purchasing the institution was to save money to the people, on the theory that it costs the State less per capita to maintain its insane in the State's asylums at Fort Supply and Winthman than being paid for the patients at this asylum, not owned and operated by the State.

The property was an asset of the failed Capitol National Bank of Guthrie, and was sold by the owners of the assets to clean up the business of that receivership, which had been pending for more than twelve years. The asylum was a money maker for the receivership and resulted in the bank paying out on its liabilities. It has been announced that there will be no immediate change in the management of the institution, Dr. D. W. Griffin continuing as superintendent.

IS PROBLEM TO COLLECT

TAXES ON CASH ON HAND

Cash on hand is one of the items most difficult to disclose in the work of the Tax Assessor. In Oklahoma last year the reports of banks showed that individual deposits at tax assessing time aggregated \$136,350,000. The aggregate of money turned in for taxes was \$5,436,869. It was a condition that called forth a resolution in the Fifth Legislature and in some of the counties it resulted in efforts to make collection of taxes on greater sums by seeking to force bankers to disclose the identity of their depositors and the sums each had on deposit. Nothing tangible was accomplished.

In Oklahoma County a grand jury was directed to investigate the concealment of taxable property in the form of money in the banks, and bankers were subpoenaed to testify as to the individual deposits. Nothing, however, was disclosed. It was shown by the bankers that if they disclosed the business of their customers, there would be wholesale withdrawals at tax assessing time, and the business of the commonwealth would be jeopardized by the accumulation of funds to meet the drafts of withdrawing customers.

This year the same condition promises to be found, as shown by the returns so far received from the County Assessors by the State Board of Equalization. State Auditor E. B. Howard is seeking a remedy for the loss of revenues from approximately \$150,000,000 of cash. He has a plan that he thinks may be tried with profit by the Board, and will ask that it be adopted. This is to take the reports of banks for the date approximately Jan. 1, 1915, and add to the assessed values of each county for State purposes the sum thus shown to be in the banks unreturned. This will "pass the buck" to the counties with a vengeance, and may result, he thinks, in some successful effort on the part of the county authorities thus admonished to collect taxes on the money in the several counties.

Mr. Howard points out that the increase in revenues to the State, if all the money deposited in the banks at assessing time were taxed, would be approximately \$450,000 a year. His idea of arbitrarily charging the counties with the sums shown to be on deposit in their banks, but not assessed for State purposes, is rather radical, however, and it is not known how the Board will view the proposition when it comes to the equalization of county assessments.

Wisdom, Mont.—M. M. McGregor of Plains has a crabapple tree which produces rose blossoms. There are no apples formed where the roses have bloomed. A white rose bush was planted last year ten feet from the tree, and it is believed the root grafted itself onto the tree root.

TAX VALUES ARE HIGHER THIS YEAR

Total Assessment of Real and Personal Property in County Exceeds \$11,000,000. Exclusive of Public Service Corporations.

The assessed value of all real and personal property in Bryan County for this year runs to \$11,151,187, as against \$10,491,333 in 1914, an increase this year of \$659,854. This, of course, does not include the property of railroads and other public service corporations, which is assessed by the State Board of Equalization, and which this year should run the total up about \$4,000,000 more.

When it is considered that there has been a great "getting rid" of cattle and horses and mules in the county during the past year, and the further fact that the county does not assess automobiles this year, it is thought that the valuations this year make a remarkable showing.

Total valuations, both real and personal, by townships, towns and cities, are as follows:

Township 2	772,078
Township 3	523,976
Township 4	598,761
Township 5	1,082,434
Township 6	529,251
Township 7	388,163
Township 8	796,664
Township 9	555,906
Township 10	428,750
Township 11	395,568
Township 12	67,383
Durant	2,710,245
Caddo	533,373
Kemp Town	39,230
Calera	151,165
Kenefiek	176,043
Bennington	294,611
Wade	27,367
Kemp City	67,869
Bokehito	167,638
Total	\$11,151,187

FINANCIER WOUNDED

J. P. Morgan, head of the famous banking firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., of New York City, was wounded in the groin by a maniac giving him a name as Frank Holt, while the financier was in his own home at Glen Cove, N. Y., Saturday. The assailant was badly beaten by Mr. Morgan and his butler before he could be brought into submission. Mr. Morgan's wounds are not serious. Holt admitted, under a third-degree treatment, that he set the bomb that wrecked a portion of the capitol building at Washington the day before, but gave no reason for his act. He says, regarding the Morgan shooting, that he had gone to Mr. Morgan's home to induce him to bring the war to a close by stopping the shipment of munitions of war to the allies, and that he had no intention of hurting him, but merely fired to scare him.

Holt committed suicide Tuesday night in his cell in the jail at Minneapolis, Long Island, the exact method used being unknown. It is certain that he died from a fractured skull. Before committing the deed he admitted that the story he had told of making the bomb that damaged the Capitol was untrue.

BRYAN SAYS MISQUOTED

William Jennings Bryan, ex-Secretary of State, is out this week with another statement, in which he says he has been grossly misquoted, and that he did not believe in "peace at any cost," but only believes that many wars, and notably the present conflict, could easily have been avoided with honor to all concerned.

HUERTA RE-ARRESTED

Victoriano Huerta, under bond of \$15,000 at El Paso for alleged attempts to inaugurate a revolution against Mexico, was re-arrested Saturday by federal officers and lodged in the federal jail at that place. It is requested that his bond be raised to \$100,000. Huerta made a protest to the U. S. Supreme Court against such action.

BETTER BABIES CONTEST

AT BRYAN COUNTY FAIR

The City Federation of Women's Clubs has decided to hold a "Better Babies Contest" at the county fair to be held here this fall. These contests have been held the past few years and the Club already owns the necessary equipment for conducting the contest, which will lighten the expense this year.

The Colossal
JULY CLEARING
SALE
--- At The ---
DURANT Mercantile Co
GOOD THINGS TO WEAR
Is Drawing Larger Crowds
EVERY DAY

All who have attended are so highly pleased they are sending others--and its no wonder, for the backward or wet weather has left such complete stocks to select from and at prices they are buying them are enough to draw large crowds.

With more than three months yet to wear them, and many who have not bought but few Summer garments, it makes this one the most popular Clearing Sales We've had.

REMEMBER Our Guarantee is the same--our goods the same as before the sale--and you find the same painstaking care in fitting and pleasing you, for its our ambition to serve you again, but

DON'T WAIT! Every day reduces our large stocks, so come earliest minute possible.

The Sign of the big Elephant
DURANT Mercantile Co
GOOD THINGS TO WEAR
Where Jumbo values prevail